

Somerset Medical Center

1899

CENTENNIAL GALA COMMEMORATIVE KEEPSAKE

1999

SMC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF CARING

Last year, on December 6, Somerset Medical Center celebrated a major milestone: its 100th anniversary.

Throughout 1999 and into 2000, a variety of special events marked the 100th anniversary of Somerset Medical Center. This special centennial Gala keepsake illustrates our history of caring for the community, highlighting historical photos, memoirs and stories that look back to various periods of the hospital's progress and development.

Both the first Somerset Hospital and the "new" hospital on Rehill Avenue, which we now know as Somerset Medical Center, have always been sources of pride and places of achievement. Looking back at our history should reinforce our sense of satisfaction in the extraordinary care we have always provided to our patients. We've flourished for an entire century, throughout all of its challenges, changes and successes.

Congratulations, SMC!



The first Somerset Hospital (c. 1901) was incorporated on December 6, 1899, and opened its doors in 1901. This house, which has been renovated many times and still stands today at 350 East Main Street, served as the site of the hospital until 1925, when a "new" hospital was built on the present site at Rehill Avenue.

THE BEGINNING

In 1898, a 16-year-old boy from Somerville died after a serious head injury because he was unable to receive timely emergency treatment. The nearest hospital was in Plainfield; other than that, the only place to take the sick or the injured was the county jail or poorhouse. His death deeply saddened the community and triggered a series of editorials in the local newspaper to establish a fund-raising drive for a hospital. In 1899, a group of citizens and physicians who wanted better medical care for the residents of Somerset County began to work toward this goal. A board of trustees was formed, and Somerset Hospital was officially incorporated on December 6, 1899.



Eight members of the medical staff pose outside the first Somerset Hospital (c. 1916). From left to right are: Drs. Runkel F. Hegeman, A. Anderson Lawton, Claudius Fisher, Aaron L. Stillwell, Thomas Flynn, B. F. Seaman, William H. Long and Charles F. Halstead.

The Women's Auxiliary Board, or W.A.B., (known today as the SMC Auxiliary) was organized and held bake sales, card parties and various socials to raise funds for the purchase of a building to house the hospital. With \$5,500 raised through the W.A.B. and community donations, the trustees purchased the Lord Mansion at 350 East Main Street in 1900. After considerable refurbishing - the house did not have running water or electricity - it opened its doors as Somerset Hospital in 1901 with 12 beds and a staff of 10 doctors.

The hospital was a focal point of community pride and medical service. It acquired an X-ray machine and lab equipment and established a first-rate operating room that was lauded as the finest outside of New York City, with lights that could make it as bright as day inside, even at night. (continued on page two)

REPORT OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL STAFF.

To the Board of Trustees of the Somerset Hospital:

The Medical and Surgical Staff respectfully submit herewith a tabular report of patients and diseases treated at the hospital from the opening, February 26, 1901, to the present date, December 6, 1921:

THE SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASES.	Male		Female		Total	Cured.	Improved.	Unimproved.	Died.	Remaining.
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged						
Cancer uterus	1	1	1	1	2					
Appendicitis	1	1	1	1	2					
Pelvic phlebitis	1	1	1	1	2					
Compound fracture leg (tibia and fibula)	1	1	1	1	2					
Compound fracture foot	1	1	1	1	2					
Callosities of foot	1	1	1	1	2					
Right leg crushed, internal injuries	1	1	1	1	2					
Prostrialgia	1	1	1	1	2					
Hemorrhoids	1	1	1	1	2					
• Uterine fibroids	1	1	1	1	2					
• Pelvic cellulitis	1	1	1	1	2					
Ulcerated ketoid	1	1	1	1	2					
• Neurasthenia	1	1	1	1	2					
Lacerated perineum	1	1	1	1	2					
Endometritis	1	1	1	1	2					
Malnutrition	1	1	1	1	2					
Irritable stump	1	1	1	1	2					
Typoid fever	1	1	1	1	2					
Lacerated wound face, shock	1	1	1	1	2					
General debility	1	1	1	1	2					
Intermittent fever	1	1	1	1	2					
Compound fracture skull	1	1	1	1	2					
Fracture base of skull	1	1	1	1	2					
Fracture scapula	1	1	1	1	2					
Cancer breast	1	1	1	1	2					
Crushed foot	1	1	1	1	2					
Necrosis phalanges	1	1	1	1	2					
Necrosis humerus	1	1	1	1	2					
Ovarian tumor	1	1	1	1	2					
Colitis hand	1	1	1	1	2					

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASES.	Male		Female		Total	Cured.	Improved.	Unimproved.	Died.	Remaining.
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged						
Bullet wound, chest	1	1	1	1	2					
Bullet wound, head	1	1	1	1	2					
Shock contusion, side	1	1	1	1	2					
Concussion brain	1	1	1	1	2					
Adenitis	1	1	1	1	2					
Adherent proptosis	1	1	1	1	2					
Crushed arm and leg	1	1	1	1	2					
Wound, thumb (bleeding)	1	1	1	1	2					
Anaemia	1	1	1	1	2					
Burns, arms and forearms	1	1	1	1	2					
Summary	28	18	46	29	75	4	1	1	1	2

* Three cases discharged unimproved were admitted for examination only.
A. L. STILLWELL,
Secretary Medical and Surgical Staff.

100 YEARS (continued from page one)

A nursing school was started in 1911, with the head nurse also serving as superintendent of the hospital. During her tenure, because of the great demand for the hospital's services, many additions had to be added to the original little house between 1911 and 1925. Even with all of the additions, the hospital eventually reached its capacity of 24 beds.

THE "NEW" HOSPITAL OPENS

Once again the community supported another fund-raising campaign, and in August 1925, a "new" Somerset Hospital was opened. It was built on Rehill Avenue (where today's medical center campus is located) and accommodated 100 patients. The new hospital boasted a modern lab, delivery room and

nursery, men's and women's wards, well-equipped kitchen and state-of-the-art operating rooms. This Somerset Hospital cost almost \$500,000 to build, about 100 times the cost of the first little house.

THE MODERN ERA BEGINS

Once again, demand for the hospital's services kept growing, and in 1946, it expanded to 190 beds with the new South Wing. In 1953, Nelson O. Lindley arrived from Boston's Beth Israel Hospital to become Somerset's first professional administrator. Under his guidance, and in response to increased patient census, the North Wing was opened in 1956.

In 1961, Fuld Auditorium was added. Aside from hospital functions, Fuld was and remains a community resource for meetings and other events. In 1963, the East Wing opened, bringing the total number of beds to 300. In 1972, the West Wing was completed, bringing bed capacity to 350 while providing space for future expansion.



Nurses initially lived in dormitory rooms (c.1911) conveniently located near the hospital.

Other important changes were also taking place.

In 1975, the American

Medical Association approved establishment of the hospital's three-year Family Practice Residency Program. The Medical Education building was built in 1977 for use by the public as well as the hospital staff. In 1978, the hospital opened what is now the Center for Mental Health to provide short-term psychiatric care. Also in 1978, reflecting these and many other transitions, Somerset Hospital became Somerset Medical Center.

In January 1985, the Same Day Center opened, correctly anticipating the growing trend toward same-day procedures and surgeries. The Same Day Center was the first phase of a \$15 million expansion/modernization project. The project's second phase included two major areas: the Clinical Laboratory, one of the largest and best-equipped hospital-based clinical laboratories in the state, which was dedicated in December 1985; and the \$7.5 million Center for Diagnostic Imaging, which was dedicated in November 1986. In June 1990, the project's final phase was completed: a 3,000-square-foot-addition to the Emergency Care Center. (continued on page three)

*"Welcoming the
Future...
Toasting the Past"*

*Somerset Medical Center
Centennial Gala
Celebration
Saturday,
June 3, 2000*

SMC TODAY

Today, Somerset Medical Center serves the residents of the greater Somerset County area with a full complement of inpatient, outpatient and community services and programs. Nearly 100 years after its founding with 10 physicians, Somerset Medical Center's 500-member medical and dental staff practices in more than 45 specialties, with the highest percentage of board certified physicians on staff in the state, according to *A Consumer Guide to Hospitals in New Jersey*, a 1995 publication of the New Jersey Department of Health.



A nurses' residence on Grant Avenue (c. 1913) was donated by Mrs. J.H. Smith.

In June 1996, Somerset Medical Center completed a three-year \$46 million expansion/modernization project, the largest undertaken since it opened its doors in 1901. This wide-reaching project involved over two-thirds of the medical center, with a scope of 58,000 square feet of new construction, 100,000 square feet of renovations and \$10 million in new equipment.

Among the project's many changes to enhance patient care and position the medical center to serve its communities into the next century were expansion of the Same Day Center, renovation of the G.I. Center and construction of the new Cancer Center, all completed in 1993; opening of the new Maternity Pavilion and Breast Care Center in the fall of 1994; dedication of the new Critical Care Pavilion in December 1994; and opening of a new major surgery suite and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) service in April 1995.

In addition, the project's expansion and remodeling extended to many other areas of the medical center, including the Pediatric, Orthopedic, Post-Anesthesia and Medical/Surgical patient care units; Rehabilitation Services, including Physical and Occupational Therapy; and Eating Disorders, Cardiology Services, Respiratory Care and Pharmacy.

The medical center added a Sleep Laboratory in March 1997. In April 1997, just as it did in 1899, community support resulted in the accomplishment of a goal: this time a new Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. The three-year crusade undertaken by the medical center and members of the community has culminated in a service that is flourishing beyond all expectations and state requirements. A new parking deck, offering free and convenient parking for patients and visitors, opened in October 1997.

EXPANSION CONTINUES

Ground was broken in 1998 for a new 19,000-square-foot medical office building that is the home of our three-year Somerset Family Practice Residency Program. The residency program's spacious new location incorporates state-of-the-art teaching facilities, a sick child waiting area and community education rooms to meet the needs of the residents' patients for decades to come. The remaining areas of the new building offer conference rooms as part of the medical center's commitment to community education.

In addition, a spacious new Gift Shop opened in 1998 and the construction of a new 10,000-square-foot Main Entrance/Lobby and Patient Services Center was begun. Completed in late 1999, it provides easy access to Admitting, Outpatient Registration, Pre-Admission Testing, Outpatient Laboratory and high volume testing (such as EKG and EEG), all conveniently located near the parking deck entrance.

A café-style food service area - The Good Day Café -



Nurses check the vital signs of a patient (c. 1915).

(continued on page four)

100 YEARS (continued from page three)

will open in the near future. The lobby's 14-foot ceilings, skylighting and 16-foot revolving door create a warm, hotel-lobby feeling. Nearby, three large conference rooms were also built for community use.

INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Today, Somerset Medical Center is a nationally accredited 355-bed acute care and teaching hospital, the major provider of health care to the greater Somerset County area. Supported by a staff of top-notch medical professionals, a hard working Auxiliary, dedicated employees and a loyal community, Somerset Medical Center is poised to provide the finest health care available well into the future.



The nursing staff gathered for a photograph, probably taken around 1920.

THE SOMERSET HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING: A BRIEF HISTORY

On February 29, 1911, the members of the Board of Trustees of the Somerset Hospital amended their certificate of incorporation to “establish, maintain and operate a school of training, education, instruction and preparation of persons to act as nurses of the sick, injured, infirm, aged...” The Somerset Hospital Training School was therefore established in 1911.

The first student was admitted to the Training School on December 1, 1911, and the first graduation exercises were held on April 24, 1914.

Miss Ida May Connors was the only member of the first class to finish the three-year course. Edith Melick Mosher received her diploma with Miss Connors but did not actually complete the required course of work until some time later.



Nurses tend to a patient while a physician operates (c.1920).



The Operating Room (c. 1920) was located in the former front parlor of the house. It was considered state-of-the-art and was lauded as the finest outside of New York City. Bright lights made surgery possible even at night.

In the very early days, lectures were given by staff doctors and instruction in theoretical practical nursing was given by the head nurse, who also served as superintendent of the hospital, and her nurses. The State Board of Nursing was organized in 1922. It was not compulsory to become a registered nurse unless a nurse was planning on doing administrative work. “Registered Nurse” titles were given after passing exams in Trenton, N.J., or were given to nurses who were doing one year of service in the army. Some of the Somerset Hospital School of Nursing’s milestones include:

1926 The old hospital was put into temporary use as a nurses’ residence. Later in the year it, it was sold. The Grant Avenue residence was moved to its present site and remodeled to include teaching facilities for the school of nursing.

(continued on page five)

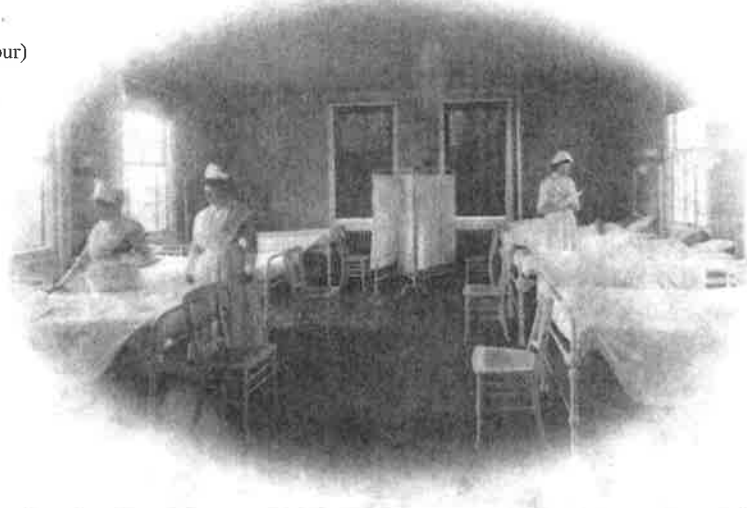
SCHOOL OF NURSING (continued from page four)

1937 The first capping and candlelight exercises were held on March 15, 1937. They continued each year through 1957.

1938 The school was fully approved by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing.

1939 The eight-hour day was put into effect for students and members of the staff.

1941-1942 The name of the school was changed from "Training School" to "School of Nursing."



Nurses care for patients in the Men's Ward in the first Somerset Hospital, prior to 1925.

1943 The first clinical instructor was added to the faculty. The Veghte House at East Main Street and Gaston Avenue was purchased and converted into a nurses' residence.

1945 Scholarship awards were established by the Somerset Hospital Board of Trustees. A full-year scholarship was valued at \$1,000; a summer school scholarship was valued at \$250.

1947 Licensure for nurses was made mandatory.

1952 The North Fuld Student Residence was constructed with funds from Dr. Leonhard Felix Fuld and the Helene Fuld Foundation of Trenton, N.J. The 48-hour work week was changed to a 40-hour week.

1953 The first male student was admitted to the school and graduated in 1956. He was the only male student to attend the School of Nursing in its 56-year history.

1959 Dr. Fuld and the Helene Fuld Foundation gave another grant to the School of Nursing, making it possible to construct the South Fuld Nurses' Residence.

1967 The school revised its curriculum and scheduling, changing from the traditional 36 months to 27 months.

1968 Early in the year, the Somerset Hospital Board of Trustees decided to begin phasing out the school of nursing.

(continued on page six)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE W. A. B.

Report of the Secretary of the W. A. B. of The Somerset Hospital.
The year that closes to-day has been a notable one in the history of hospital work in this county. When it opened, The Somerset Hospital was a name. It is now an established institution, well-officed and equipped for the work it has done, and which, God willing, it will continue to do.

In reviewing the events which, following each other in quick succession, have led up to present conditions, the members of this Auxiliary Board will, in many instances, recognize the results of their own efforts.

We must be glad that we have been able to do so much, and inspired by our success to do more, and yet more towards the accomplishment of a purpose that will recommend itself to people of all creeds and tongues.

In December, 1900, the Trustees of The Somerset Hospital purchased the Lord place in East Somerville, which was at once put in readiness to receive patients. Since that time the work of alteration and improvement, with respect to the building and its furnishings, has gone steadily on.

The Emergency Hospital has contributed largely to this end, and we hereby express our appreciation of their financial aid and moral support.

Miss C. J. Allen, of Bond Brook, in suitably fitting out a woman's and children's ward, has outlined a beautiful work. It should be our aim to make her evident ideal a reality.

Eight regular and four special meetings have been held during the year. Also, several meetings of the Executive Committee.

The membership has increased, and numbers forty-nine active and eight associate members. It is most important that these numbers should receive large additions.

The Board by its efficient House Committee and Visiting Committee has directed the domestic affairs of the hospital with economy and ability.

Those who have contributed supplies—business men and others, more especially the proprietors of the Somerville Meat Markets, who have been most generous—deserve all the thanks we can express.

The various entertainments that have marked the progress of the year, have been important factors in the maintenance of our credit. We trust the future will develop continued activity in this direction.

A reception was given the Somerville and Bond Brook Lodges of the Knights of Pythias, at the hospital, at the hospital, that the Knights might have an opportunity to inspect the building.

Thanksgiving Day was observed in a suitable manner. Donations were generous, and greatly appreciated by the inmates of the hospital.

To conclude, we must remember that while it may be difficult to launch a new enterprise, it will probably be quite as difficult to keep it afloat. Winds and waves must be constantly watched and taken advantage of. Then we will sail ahead. Otherwise, we will only drift. But what others have done, we can do. In confident hope and trust we welcome the New Year.

MARY M. STEELE,
Secretary.



The Newborn Nursery (c. 1920) was part of the original hospital on East Main Street.



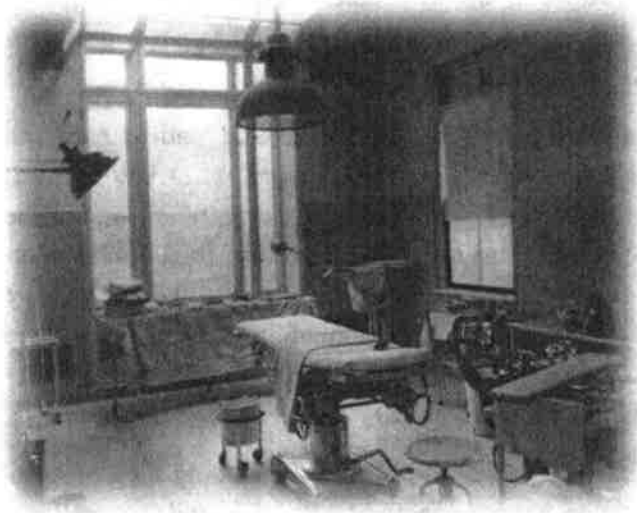
Ambulances were first used by the hospital in 1917; this one is from 1938.

SCHOOL OF NURSING (continued from page five)

1970 After a 56-year history, the last class graduated from the Somerset Hospital School of Nursing on June 11, 1970.

HISTORIC HEADLINES

On Saturday, July 19, 1924, the cornerstone was laid for the new Somerset Hospital on Rehill Avenue. A special cornerstone box was created with some historical documents enclosed. The following headlines appeared in local papers the week prior to the cornerstone ceremony:



An Operating Room inside the "new" hospital (c. 1925) shows technological advances over the O.R. in the front parlor of the first hospital.

The Touring Car
at
\$295
R. O. B. Detroit
Durable, Rides
and Saves Gas



Now Is The Time!

You who have been promising yourself a Ford car, saying it was "only a question of time"—should buy NOW!

The time was never so favorable, because a Ford will get you out-of-doors more hours every day this summer. The quality never quite so good (even by Ford standards) and the price is the lowest in the world for such values.

Ford Motor Company
Dearborn, Michigan
Model 8301 Coupe \$295 Model 8302 Sedan \$320 Model 8303 Sedan \$340
All prices f.o.b. Detroit

DURYEA MOTOR CO.
SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Ford
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

You can buy one model by making a small down payment and spreading payments over the balance. Or you can buy on the Ford Weekly Purchase Plan. The Ford dealer in your neighborhood will gladly explain both plans in detail.

The Somerset Messenger - Wednesday, July 16, 1924

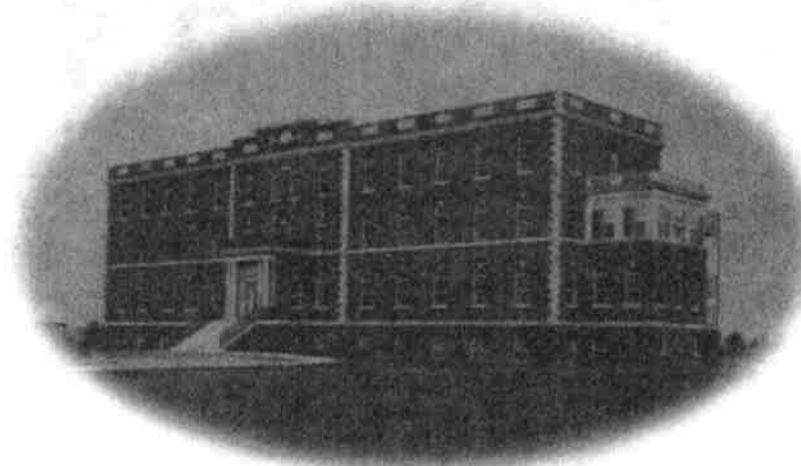
- Liquor Raids In County Net All Sorts of Booze
- Train Derailed As It Hits Truck
- Cornerstone Will Be Laid Saturday
- Manville Lining Up Back Of New Move For Borough

The Unionist Gazette - Thursday, July 17, 1924

- Cornerstone Laying
- First Community Sing
- Dry Spell Will Follow Raids
- Company B At Sea Girt
- Manville Would Be A Borough
- Calco Wins Water Meet



A nurse makes notes in the Laboratory (c. 1925) in the hospital on Rehill Avenue.



The "new" Somerset Hospital was built on Rehill Avenue in 1925.

Somerset Democrat - Friday, July 18, 1924

- New Railroad Bridge At Somerset Street
- Talks to Havana Rotary Club
- Company B At Camp Silzer
- Cornerstone To Be Laid For New Hospital
- Manville May Become Borough
- Silzer Won't Run For U.S. Senator